

"Written testimony submitted to the Education Committee on S.B. 948, An Act Addressing Education Funding and Racial Equity in Connecticut"

March 3, 2021

Co-Chairs Senator McCrory and Representative Sanchez, Ranking Members Senator Berthel and Representative McCarty, and distinguished members of the Education Committee:

My name is Clancy Emanuel, and I am from New Haven, Connecticut.

I'm asking you to **support S.B. 948**, An Act Addressing Education Funding and Racial Equity in Connecticut because it will:

- Send millions of dollars to schools that serve Black, Brown, and low-income students.
- Make funding more equitable by reflecting the learning needs of English language learners and children in communities with concentrated poverty.
- Fund all public schools through a needs-based formula that includes magnets, charters, and vocational-technical schools without taking money away from traditional schools.
- Eliminate the phase-in and fully fund ECS. Under current law, a second-grader will be in high school before they receive their full funding.

Right now, our state's education funding system is racist and classist. We spend more on educating affluent white children than low-income children and children of color. Then we spend even more to police, prosecute, and incarcerate those who are failed by our education system. I'm asking you to help make Connecticut a more just and equitable place to live.

I grew up in Waterford, Connecticut. I almost grew up going to New London public schools, but my parents were able (through generational wealth) to move to Waterford. The kids I hung out with usually called it "White-a-ford" because it was such a predominantly white town. I've realized how my school system was considered "better" than the neighboring New London schools due to segregation and racist funding policies. While we personally may not be responsible for the conditions that caused this situation, we have a duty to make it as much of an opportunity for other people.

Please vote "Yes" on S.B. 948 and support its passage in the General Assembly so that our state's budget reflects the values of justice and equity in education.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and leadership on this issue.

Clancy Emanuel

167 Livingston Street, New Haven, CT 06511